



Police Department

Nannette H. Hegerty
Chief of Police

MAY 24, 2005

STATEMENT BY CHIEF NANNETTE HEGERTY REGARDING EVENTS OF OCTOBER 24, 2004

TODAY ENDS ONE VERY DIFFICULT CHAPTER IN A STORY THAT HAS SCARRED THE MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT. BUT THERE STILL IS ANOTHER CHAPTER TO COME. THE DISCIPLINES I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO APPEALS HEARINGS IN FRONT OF THE FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION. I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO ATTEND THOSE HEARINGS AND TO REPORT THE INFORMATION FROM THOSE PROCEEDINGS TO YOUR VIEWERS, LISTENERS AND READERS.

THERE ALSO IS A PENDING CRIMINAL TRIAL IN THIS MATTER. BECAUSE THAT PROCESS IS CONTINUING I AM PROHIBITED FROM ANSWERING MANY OF THE QUESTIONS YOU MAY STILL HAVE AFTER I CONCLUDE THIS STATEMENT. ON ADVICE FROM MILWAUKEE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY E. MICHAEL MCCANN, I AM UNABLE TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT THAT COULD PREJUDICE ANY COURT PROCEEDINGS. I WILL NOT DISCUSS DISCIPLINE DECISIONS REGARDING SPECIFIC OFFICERS. I WILL NOT DISCUSS ANY ASPECT OF THIS CASE THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

I WILL TELL YOU THAT THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY IS NOT ALONE IN ITS ANGER OVER THE EVENTS OF OCTOBER 24. THERE ALSO IS ANGER IN THE MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT. OFFICERS - GOOD OFFICERS - HAVE BEEN PAINTED WITH THE SAME BROAD BRUSH AS THOSE OFFICERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THIS DEPLORABLE INCIDENT. WE HAVE 2,000 OFFICERS WHO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE EVERY DAY. MOST PIN ON A BADGE AND THEY EARN IT EVERY DAY. MOST GO OUT AND DO THE JOB RIGHT EVERY DAY. AND WHEN THEY DON'T, MY RECORD IS CLEAR.

I WON'T TOLERATE MISCONDUCT ON THIS POLICE DEPARTMENT. THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN THIS TYPE OF CONDUCT ARE NOT WORTHY OF WEARING THE BADGE OF A MILWAUKEE POLICE OFFICER. THE CITIZENS OF THIS CITY DESERVE BETTER. I BELIEVE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DIFFICULT TIME IS A STRONGER MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT. I WANT OFFICERS ON THIS DEPARTMENT WHO EARN THEIR BADGES EVERY DAY. ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY LESS.

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